HELP!!

TRANSLATORS,
SCAN CLEANERS, TYPESETTERS,

WE NEED YOU!

PLEASE APPLY AT
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Doubutsu no Oishasan
by SASAKI Noriko
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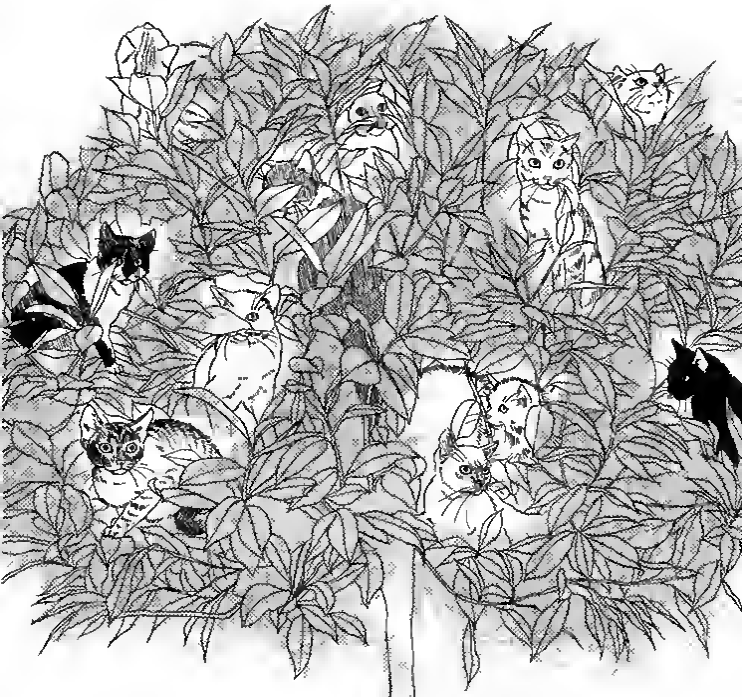
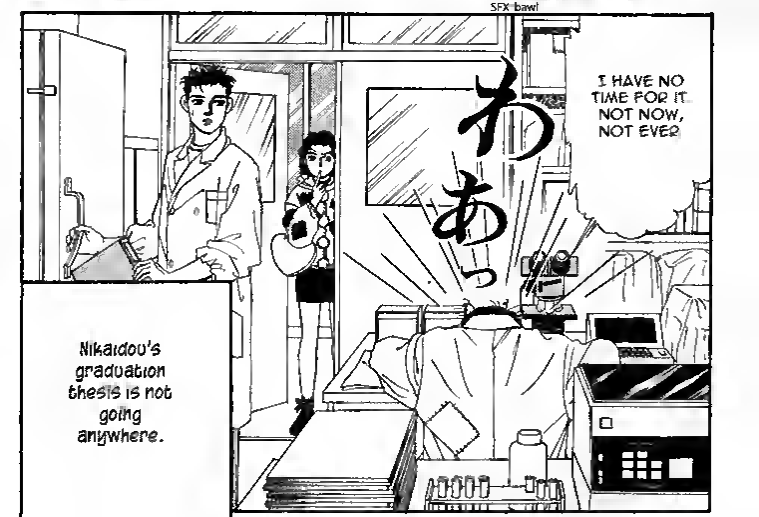


動物のお医者さん
どうぶつ　いしゃ

SFX: bawl



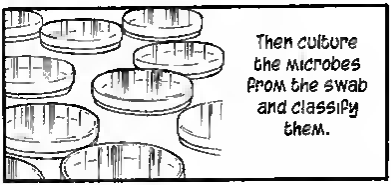
Nikaidou's graduation thesis is not going anywhere.

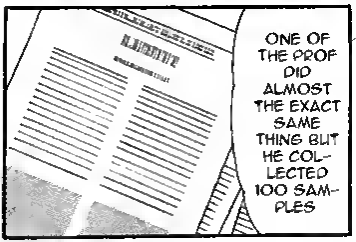
I FOUND A NEW PLACE
IT'S A HOUSE TURNED BISTRO WITH BEAUTIFUL STAIN-GLASS
YEAH, I'LL EVEN TREAT YOU WITH MY HARD-EARNED SALARY
YOU SHOULD GO OUT AND RELAX A BIT
THE GIRL WHO SLIPS OUT AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.
MORE LIKE A SALARY CHEATER.
多良福食堂
Tara Fukutou Restaurant
HOW STRANGE I WAS SO SURE THE RESTAURANT WAS AROUND HERE
IT'S OKAY MY LIFE IS A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
HAHAHAHAHA
Not yet?
A dream!?
OR MAYBE IT WAS A DREAM
I'M SO SORRY, NIKAIDOU FOR WASTING YOUR TIME AND WE STILL COULDN'T FIND THAT PLACE

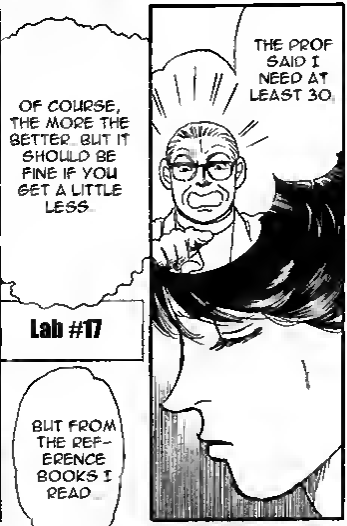
SFX: ah!
BUT AFTER I ORDER EVERY-THING THAT I WANTED,
I'D ALWAYS WAKE UP
Oh, my!
TRAVIATA
I DREAM OF FINDING A NEW SWEETS STORE ALL THE TIME
SHE LED US ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE
And never once do I get to taste it
5-6 CATS?
CATS? THERE ARE 5-6 STRAYS AROUND THE RAMEN STALL NEAR MY PLACE
WELL,
IT'D BE HELPFUL IF YOU CAN DREAM OF A PLACE
WHERE ALL THE CATS MEET AND THEN TAKE ME THERE
BUT THEY'RE ALL SUPER SCARY
No one can touch them
THEN HOW CAN I SCRAPE THEIR CHINS

HOW MANY DID YOU GET SO FAR?
13

He would scrape a cat's chin or armpit with a saline-soaked swab.
WHAT THE HELL!
HISS!
WAR WOUNDS
Nikaidou's thesis is "Classificati on and Analysis of Microbes on cat's skin".


Then culture the microbes from the swab and classify them.


ONE OF THE PROF DID ALMOST THE EXACT SAME THING BUT HE COL-LECTED 100 SAM-PLES


OF COURSE, THE MORE THE BETTER. BUT IT SHOULD BE FINE IF YOU GET A LITTLE LESS
THE PROF SAID I NEED AT LEAST 30.

WHATEVER. 100 OR 101, IT'S THE SAME!"
ARE YOU SURE IT WASN'T DOGS?
WASN'T IT 101?

Lab #17

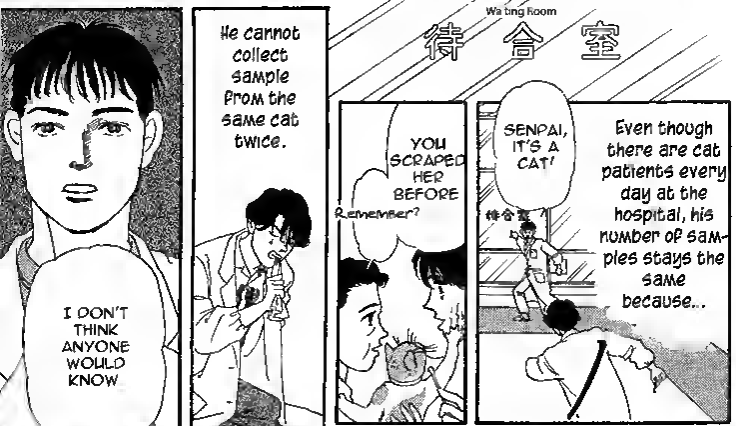
BUT FROM THE REF-ERENCE BOOKS I READ...

NO, IT WAS THE SAME AS IT IS NOW
I've only been here for 10 years.
You know him?
WAS OUR CITY FULL OF CATS 40 YEARS AGO?
101 CATS
I SEE IT'S PROFESSOR IMAIZUMI FROM OUR SCHOOL.
CRINKLE
BUT THIS WAS 40 YEARS AGO
ACK!
SO HE WAS ABLE TO COLLECT 101 SAMPLES.
PROF IMAIZUMI KNEW OF A PLACE THAT WAS FULL OF CATS.
HE'S RETIRED BUT STILL GIVES SPECIAL LECTURES FROM TIME TO TIME.
K-KAMEI-SENSEI...
PLEASE TELL ME!!
YOU KNOW HIM?!
WHERE'S HE NOW?!
YOU HAVE A LECTURE TODAY...?

SFX: dejected
ガックリ
BUT THERE'S A CLUE
HOW ABOUT THE PLACE FULL OF CATS?
NO IDEA
I'D LOVE TO HELP YOU BUT I DON'T KNOW
BY THE TIME I CAME HERE, PROF IMAIZUMI WAS ALREADY CLOSE TO RETIREMENT
IS HE STILL AROUND?
MAYBE MORE
HE MUST BE CLOSE TO 101!
I HEARD HE CALLED THAT PLACE "THE FOUNTAIN OF CATS"
THE FOUN-TAIN OF CATS
家畜病院
An mal Hospital
How is that a clue
SFX: Waaaahh!

PEOPLE ARE MAKING SLIDES NOW
GOOD JOB, MAN GO SHOW IT TO EVERYONE
Yeah.
STILL COLLECTING SAMPLES? I'VE FINISHED THE PRESENTATION SLIDES NOW.
Here!
THE DUE DATE IS NEAR, YOU KNOW.
BUT I'M STILL SCRAPING CATS' CHINS AND ARM PITS I'VE ONLY GOT 15!!
Nikaidou's path of scraping cat's microbes has been a rough one.
ISN'T 15 ENOUGH? YOU ALSO HAVE TO CULTURE THE MICROBES TOO
Then his friends' cats
He began with his 3 cats at home.
IF I DON'T HAVE MORE SAMPLES, ALL OF THESE MEAN NOTHING!!
In short, he scraped every darn cat that he's encountered.
The patients.
Hence, the nickname "Japan's Cat Scratch King"
the strays 2 km around the hospital.

A CENTENARIAN GENTLEMAN WOULD VISIT ME AND LEAD ME TO THE FOUNTAIN OF CATS
I don't think it means cats coming out of a fountain.
THE FOUNTAIN OF CATS
LATELY I'VE BEEN HAVING THIS DREAM
Even so, all he's got was 15.
GAH— I NEED THAT FOUNTAIN OF CATS! WITH CATS SHOOTING OUT LIKE A GEYSER!
Will scraping my chin help?
I think Hishiruma-san's dream is running off on him. Chom
WAHHH!
BUT I ALWAYS WAKE UP BEFORE I REACH THE DESTINATION!


I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD KNOW
He cannot collect sample from the same cat twice.
Waiting Room
待合室
YOU SCRAPED HER BEFORE
Remember?
SENPAI, IT'S A CAT!
Even though there are cat patients every day at the hospital, his number of samples stays the same because...

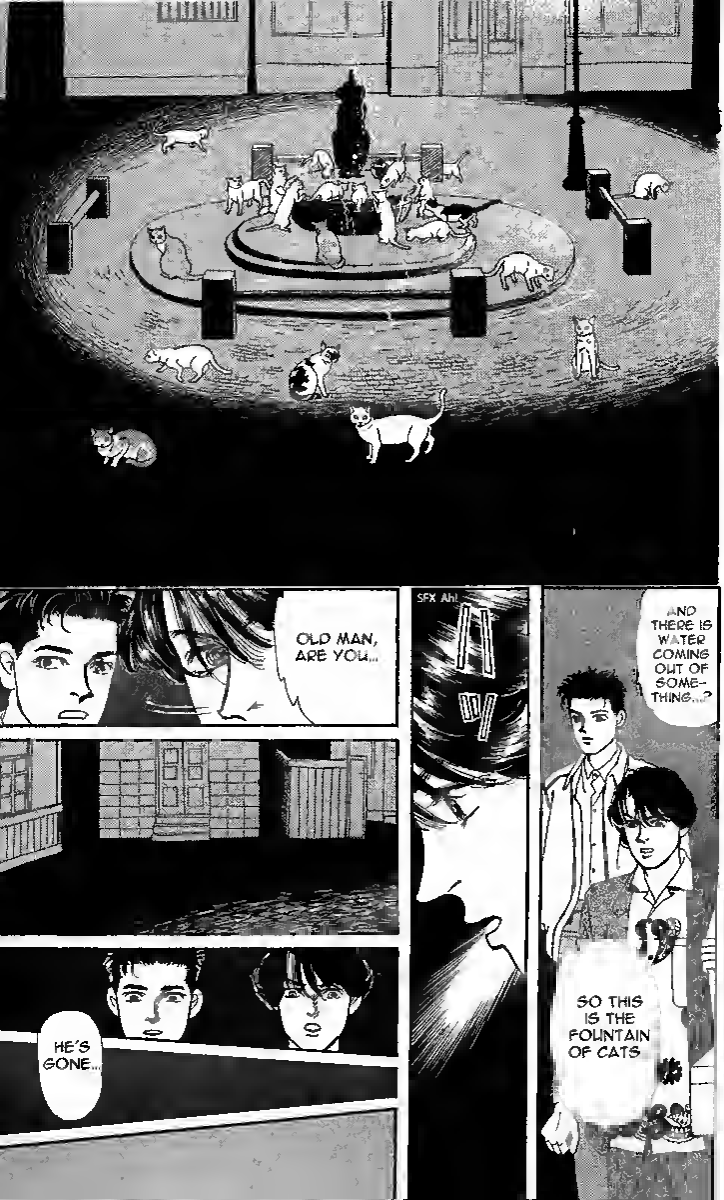
……
YEAH… YOU'RE RIGHT! MAYBE WE'LL GET DIFFERENT MICROBES FROM THE SAME CAT…
YOU'LL GET 30 CATS IN-STANTLY
BUT WHAT IF WORDS GET OUT…
And more importantly, it's a disgrace as a researcher
DON'T RISK IT, NIKAIDOH JUST EXPAND YOUR SEARCH RADIUS TO 3 KM
OKAY…
Chicken!
↑?
PEOPLE, PEOPLE EVERY-WHERE AND NOT A CAT IN SIGHT
MAYBE THERE'S A CAT BULLETIN GOING AROUND

SFX: thunk thunk!
ドカッ
ドカッ
AH, WATCH OUT!
IT'S JUST SCRAPING, YOU KNOW. NO PAIN IS INVOLVED.
OH MY!
BEWARE!
A CHIN SCRAPER IS ON THE LOOSE!
-CAT ASSOCIATION
OUW WWCH.
.....
OPEN

TIME TO START FINDING CATS
BUT THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO LOITER AROUND
YEAH, EXACTLY LIKE THE ONE SHE TOLD US ABOUT
DOESN'T THIS LOOK LIKE HISHINUMA-SAN'S RESTAU-RANT?
WHAT'S HAP-PENED?
SUDDENLY ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE GONE
NO ANI-MALS...
AND NOT A CAR MOVING EITHER

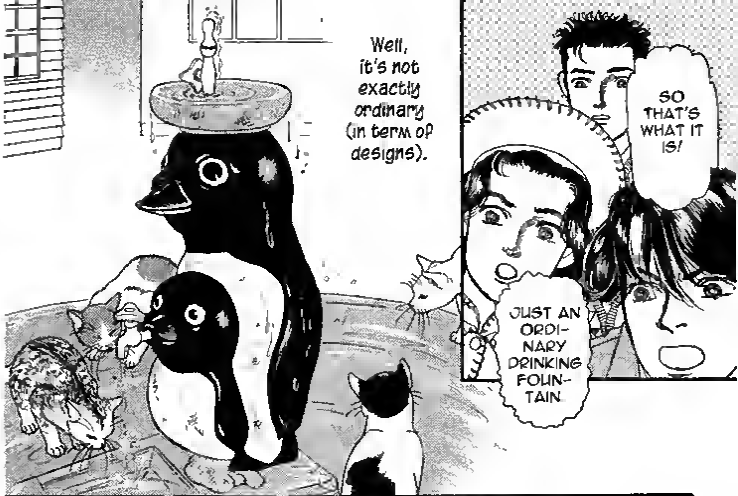
AH, SOMEONE IS COMING
LET'S ASK HIM
.....
UM... IS THERE A PLACE AROUND HERE WITH A LOT OF CATS?
.....
WAIT, NIKAIDOU THIS IS A DREAM
DON'T GO AFTER HIM!
He's got weird vibe.
.....

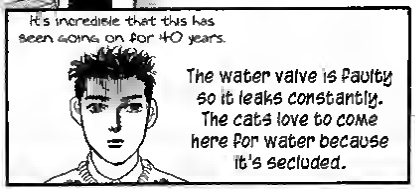
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A DREAM, I STILL WANT TO SEE IT.
You mean like the afterlife?
And this is just a dream.
WHY NOT?!
WHAT IF HE TAKES US TO THE OTHER SIDE AND WE CAN'T COME BACK?
Is the research that important to you?
NIKAIDOU
LET ME CROSS-OVER FOR THE SAKE OF MY RESEARCH.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. THERE ARE CATS EVERYWHERE!!


SO THIS IS THE FOUNTAIN OF CATS
...AND THERE IS WATER COMING OUT OF SOME-THING...?
SFX Ah!
OLD MAN, ARE YOU...
HE'S GONE...

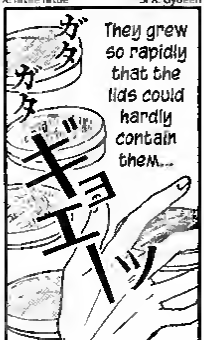
YEP, PLENTY OF CATS WITH CHINS TO SCRAPE.
WHERE IS THAT PLACE?
AND YOU SAW MY RESTAURANT TOO?
SO THAT'S HOW YOU GOT ALL THESE SAMPLES?
Animal Hospital
WE DID BUT WE GOT LOST SO MANY TIMES ON THE WAY BACK. I DON'T THINK WE COULD FIND THAT PLACE AGAIN.
YOU GUYS MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING. THERE'S NO SUCH PLACE IN OUR CITY.
AND THOSE SWABS WERE THE OLD ONES YOU HAVEN'T THROWN AWAY.
Of course it seemed too good to be true.
But Nikaidou has indisputable proof.
HERE IT IS.
JAPAN'S CAT SCRATCHES KING
JAPAN'S CAT SCRATCHES QUEEN
.....

HAMU-TERU-KUN, NIKAI-DOU-KUN...
WANNA GO FOR LUNCH WITH ME?
It's supposed to be around here
HOW STRANGE
WHERE EXACTLY IS THE SOBA PLACE YOU WANT US TO TRY?
I REALLY HAVE NO TIME FOR A WILD GOOSE CHASE AGAIN
AH, THERE! I'VE FOUND IT.
SO... THE FOUNTAIN OF CATS SHOULD BE NEARBY...
BUT IT WAS IN TOTALLY THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF WHAT YOU TOLD US
IT'S THE RESTAURANT WE SAW THAT TIME!
THERE IT IS!
IT WASN'T A DREAM?!
But when they see the fountain of cats in the brightness of daylight...




It's incredible that this has been going on for 40 years.
The water valve is faulty so it leaks constantly. The cats love to come here for water because it's secluded.

The microbes also proved themselves to be a very active bunch.
AT LEAST WE CAN NOW BE SURE THAT THE SAMPLES YOU COLLECTED WERE VALID.
SFX: rattle rattle
SFX: Gyoeeh



No one knows whether he was Prof Imaizumi (or how old he was). Nikaidou was grateful to him nonetheless.

But the identity of the mysterious old man remains elusive.